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**ON THE COVER:** Conner Weigman, Donovan Green, and Devon Achane led the team in a dominating victory over the #5 LSU Tigers. Photo by Rob Havens '88



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# Howdy Ags!

Well, this wasn't the season we hoped for but what an amazing game to wrap up our football season. In many ways, this season was a perfect storm of injuries, sicknesses, and suspensions that forced young players to be out on the field before many of them were ready. Jimbo was forced to use three different quarterbacks and more freshmen than we can count. The good thing is that our young players have gained valuable experience as we move forward. The game against LSU will be one that we remember for a long time. Very few experts gave us a chance to win, but Jimbo and his staff put together a great game plan and our players executed it to perfection as they scored the most points that they had all season against the SEC West Division winner, knocking LSU out of the CFP. Senior, wide receiver, Jalen Preston told reporters in the Monday presser before the game that the goal was to "Piss in their cornflakes." And that's exactly what they did. The team played their best four quarters of the year. Devon Achane rushed for 215 yards on 38 carries and scored two touchdowns during the game, earning SEC Offensive Player of the Week. Demani Richardson had a scoop and score touchdown that was arguably the play of the game, earning him SEC Defensive Player of the Week. Conner Weigman looked like a veteran quarterback throwing for 12 of 18 for 155 yards and two touchdowns to be named SEC Freshman of the Week. It was the third time I have been in the middle of the field as the fans rushed Kyle. Seeing the 12th Man enjoy the win and our players and potential recruits celebrate was the perfect ending to this tough season. The Aggies showed heart, determination, and grit. They gave all they could and were rewarded for their efforts!

Gig'em Ags!

Rob '88



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# Aggieland ILLUSTRATED

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Aggieland Illustrated is an independently owned, Aggie owned and operated publication and in no way reflects the views or opinions of Texas A&M University.

Aggieland Illustrated (ISSN 1932-9105) is published six times a year in the United States by Aggieland Illustrated, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841. Reproduction or use of editorial or graphics content in any manner without permission is prohibited. Photographs and manuscripts for publication are welcome but will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Address all subscription inquiries and change of address requests to Aggieland Illustrated, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841. Allow up to eight weeks for response.

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**Volume 17, Number 3****979-229-8046**  
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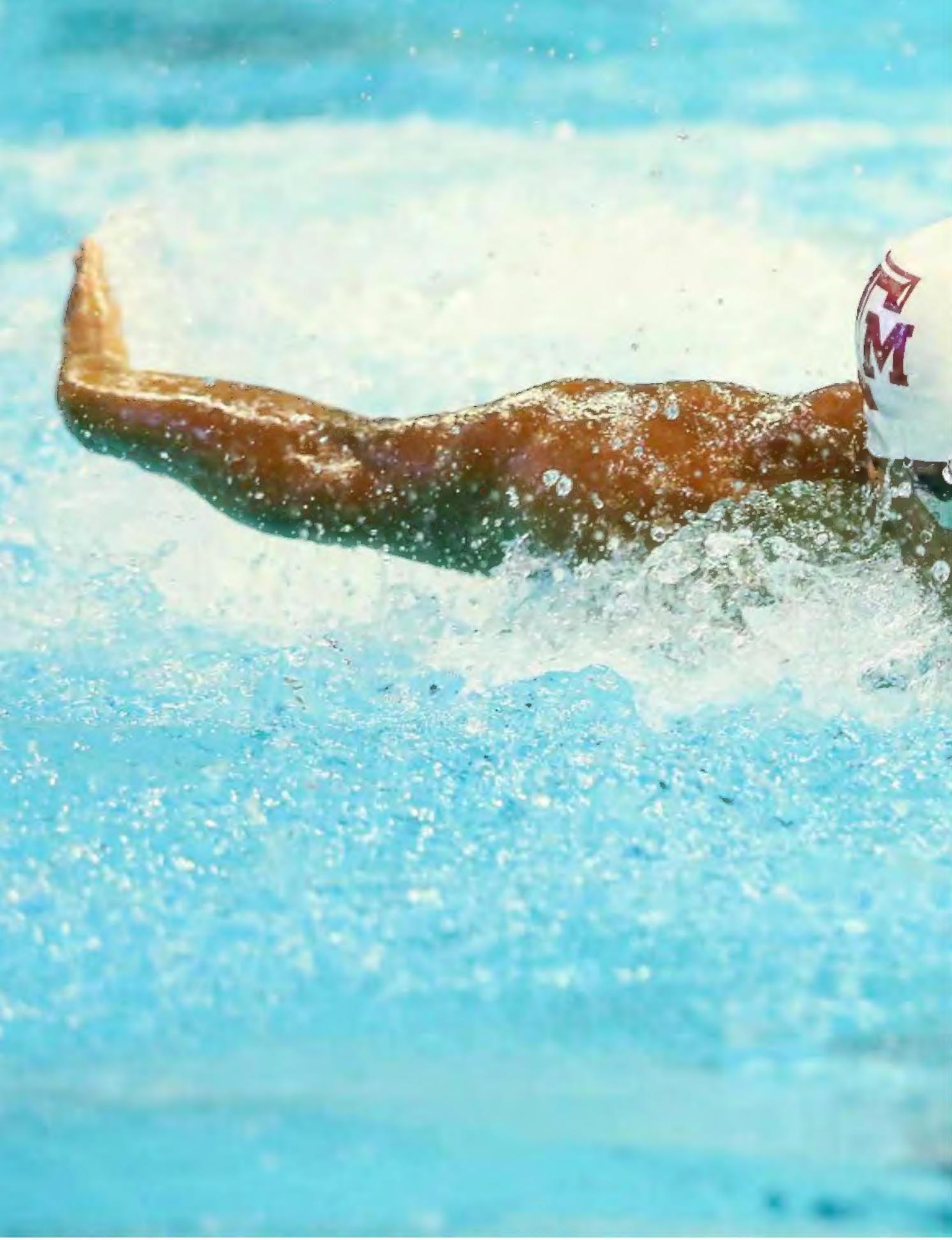


## DESTINATION AGGIELAND

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## TIME TO FLY

Junior David Oderinde competes in the fly during the Art Adamson Invitational. The 11th-ranked men's team finished first overall in the meet that took place in the Rec Center Natatorium. The Aggies beat second-place Alabama by almost 300 points. After the meet, Coach Jay Holmes said "What a great meet for this team, I'm really proud of them." Photo by Rob Havens '88



# SNAPSHOT



## HIT THE BRAKES

Evan Stewart hit the brakes and let the defender fly by as he looks in this touchdown pass by Max Johnson in the Arkansas game. With the Aggies trailing 14-0, the scoring catch turned the game around for them and the Ags went on to win with a score of 23-21. This was Stewart's first career touchdown as an Aggie. Photo by Rob Havens '88



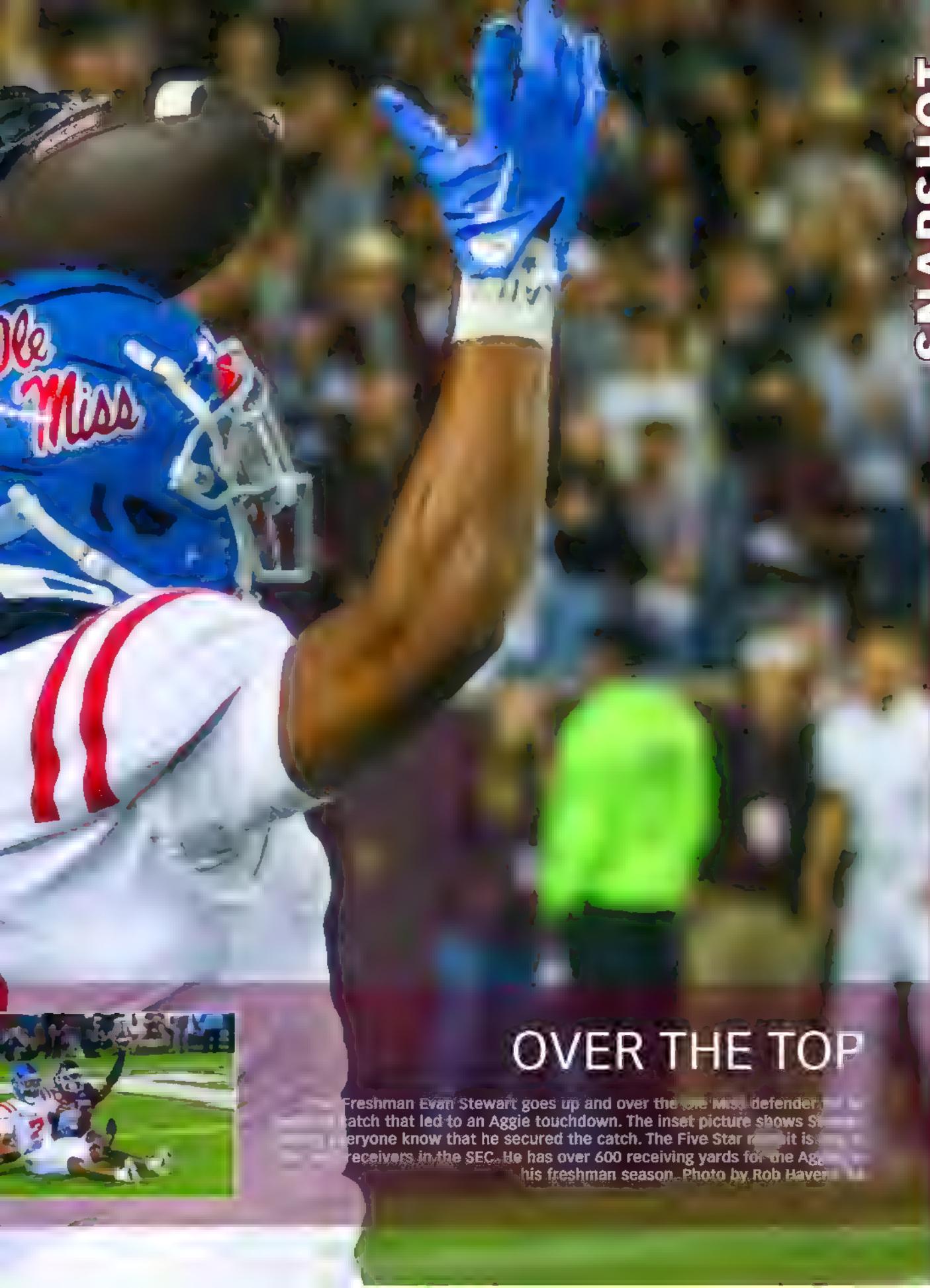
# SNAPSHOT

## UNSTOPPABLE

When Jimbo Smith's Maroon & White teammates tried to stop him from running wild against the Gators, he responded with a 100-yard, three-touchdown effort. After catching 10 passes, Smith did it all for Jimbo while donning the Maroon & White. "He's a unique player, a unique competitor and I love him to death,"



# SNAPSHOT



## OVER THE TOP

Freshman Evan Stewart goes up and over the Ole Miss defender in a catch that led to an Aggie touchdown. The inset picture shows Stewart after everyone knew that he secured the catch. The Five Star recruit is one of the top receivers in the SEC. He has over 600 receiving yards for the Aggies this season. Photo by Rob Havenith



LAUREN  
NGUYEN



MADDIE  
McDONALD



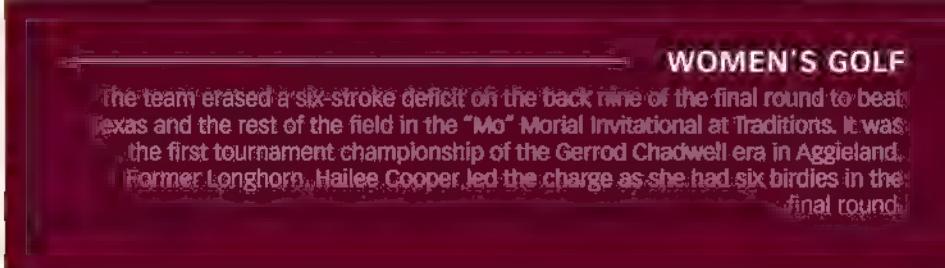
KENNA  
CALDWELL

## SOCER

Although it was an up and down season for the Aggie soccer team, they battled to the end, earning a trip to the NCAA tournament. They wrapped up the season with a 9-7-5 mark. Needing a win in the final game of the season to make the SEC Tournament, the team went out and gave great effort to beat Florida 4-1. The victory gave Coach G Guerrieri his 500th win, making him one of only five women's soccer coaches to reach the 500-win plateau.



HAILEE  
COOPER

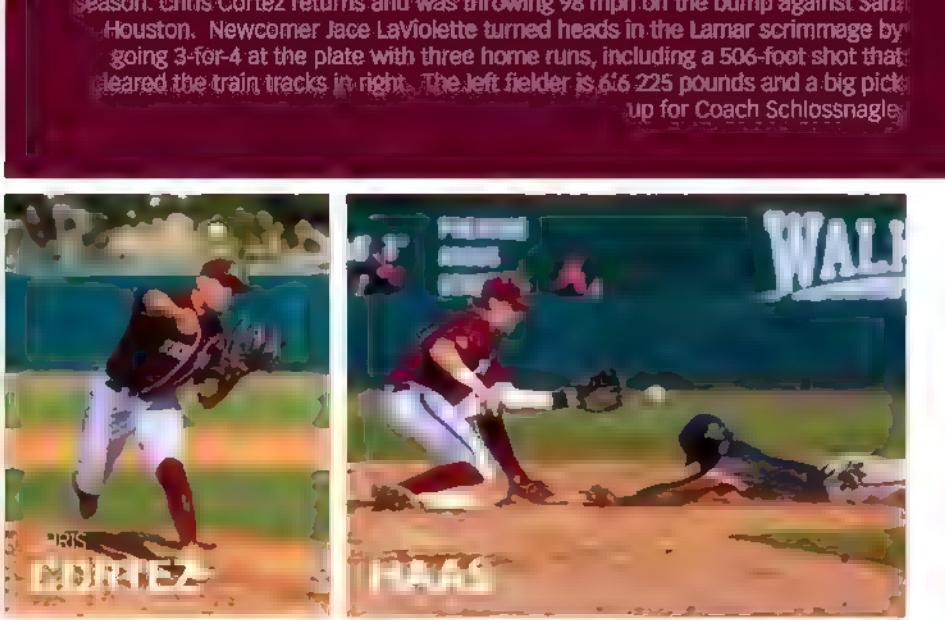


## WOMEN'S GOLF

The team erased a six-stroke deficit on the back nine of the final round to beat Texas and the rest of the field in the "Mo" Morial Invitational at Traditions. It was the first tournament championship of the Gerrod Chadwell era in Aggieland. Former Longhorn Hailee Cooper led the charge as she had six birdies in the final round.



HAILEE  
COOPER



## BASEBALL

The Aggies hosted Lamar and Sam Houston State this fall as they prepare for the 2023 season. The Aggies welcome back Trevor Werner, Brett Minnick and Austin Bost that advanced to the final four teams in the College World Series last season. Chris Cortez returns and was throwing 98 mph on the bump against Sam Houston. Newcomer Jace LaViolette turned heads in the Lamar scrimmage by going 3-for-4 at the plate with three home runs, including a 506-foot shot that cleared the train tracks in right. The left fielder is 6'6 225 pounds and a big pickup for Coach Schlossnagle.

# SCOREBOARD



## VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball team finished the season on a high note when they swept Missouri on the road 3-0. The women finished with a record of 13-16 and were 5-13 in conference play. On November 21st Aggie Athletics announced that the Director of Athletics, Ross Bjork, had relieved Head Volleyball Coach, Laura "Bird" Kuhn, of all duties effective immediately. A national search for the new leader of the program is currently underway.

## SWIMMING

The No. 11 Men's swimming and diving team won the Art Adamson Invitational that took place at the Rec Center Natatorium. The team received 1,144 points, beating out second-place Alabama who scored 845. The men accumulated multiple NCAA A-cut times in the three-day event and two new school records. The women placed third in a close meet behind Alabama and USC.



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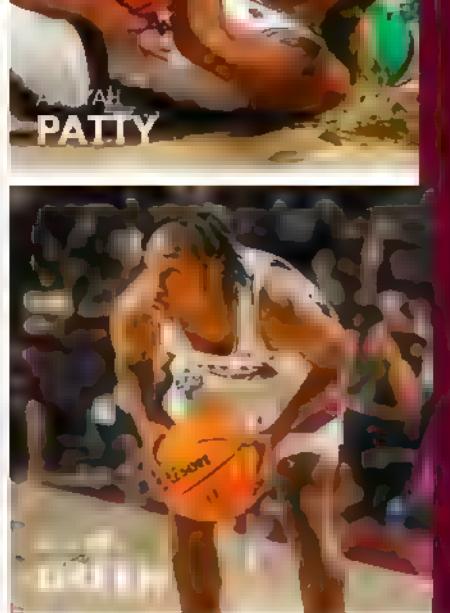


## MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Aggies started the season 2-0 and earned a #24 ranking in the polls. They went on to lose two out of three in the Myrtle Beach Invitational. The Aggies return starters Henry Coleman III, Tyrecc Radford, and Wade Taylor IV from last year's squad. Newcomers Julius Marble from Michigan State and graduate transfer, Dexter Dennis, have been welcomed additions to this year's team.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Joni Taylor era has begun in Aggieland and so far, the Aggies are 4-1. Under her leadership junior guard, Sahara Jones has stepped up at the guard position scoring 17 vs. Texas Southern. Newcomer Janiah Barker, who was the #3 prospect in the nation, is finding her stride as well, hanging 17 points on Army and Texas Southern.





# SOFTBALL PREVIEW STORY



The Aggie softball team is headed to the diamond with 4x conference coach of the year and new head coach, **TRISHA FORD**. Ford is excited to get this season going and her players out on the field after a successful amount of practicing.

"We're going to play the game aggressively, we are going to be gritty, and have tenacity," stated Ford. The 2023 SEC Conference schedule was released at the end of September, with the Ags set to hit the road to Arkansas on March 10. Their home opener to host Georgia is set for March 17 and everyone is eager to watch them to take the field in Aggieland.

## TELL US ABOUT THE TRANSFER PORTAL AND HOW YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASSEMBLE THIS YEAR'S TEAM.

We've got great talent that has transferred in, and we have gotten more pitching help. Julia Cottrill is gonna provide us with some power. Bri Evans is another one that I think is going to be huge. We have been able to sprinkle in support in some areas where I thought we were a little deficient depth wise. I'm really excited about our returning players to be honest with you and I'm excited to merge those two worlds. But yeah, I feel like we were successful this summer in the portal.

## TELL US ABOUT THE MERGING PROCESS?

It's really been about getting them out to do some group work and put them in some larger groups. We've been doing team meetings and I think really, it's them getting comfortable with me and how I am. I'm a little spicy you know, and I'm going to talk a little trash to them out on the field. So, I'm getting them used to that because sometimes they are like "what's going on," and I'm like "Hey, I want you to talk that back to me, like let's get after it a little bit." So, we are going to compete every day in practice, and I think that's something that they are going to have to get used to. That's what makes this fun. Getting to know our personalities has been the biggest thing about meshing these two worlds.

## HOW IS THIS YEAR TAKING OVER AS HEAD COACH DIFFERENT FROM PAST YEARS AND WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING TO GET OUT OF THIS?

Yeah, I think this year is us implementing our system, like how we do things and why we do things. There's a lot of coaching going on and their brains are a little bit in overload right now, but that's what the Fall is about. It's about establishing our program, our system, how we do things, and how we are going to play the game. Typically, in our programs you don't ever feel comfortable until the last out. A part of this process and transition is getting our players to understand what that looks and feels like. That comes every day in practice, it doesn't just show up on game days. So, there's a lot of a learning curve right now with getting to know the players and obviously, them getting to know us. The good Lord had us in his plans with us getting some rain the past few weeks, so it feels good to be out here today. You know, we are just excited to get on the field and spend three hours with the team.

## BEFORE YOU TOOK THE JOB, WAS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT THE RETURNING PLAYERS THAT ALLOWED YOU TO GET A LITTLE MORE FAMILIARITY WITH THEM?

You always hear athletes say "we just wanna be coached," and I'm like, "do you really wanna be coached," and this team really wants to be coached. They've been super inviting, engaged, loving, kind of all the things we are

bringing out to practice. Usually, you don't get that from 18-22 year olds. They say it sometimes and then they are like "Okay, yeah, I'm good. I don't really mean that." But they've been just tremendous, so I think it speaks of the character and type of athletes that Coach Evans recruited here.

### **SOME COACHES WANT A SMALL ROSTER AND OTHERS WANT A LARGE ROSTER AND IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A LARGE ROSTER RIGHT NOW. WHERE ARE YOU AT WITH THAT AND WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE?**

I think that the 20-22 range is a happy medium. With 22 players you can travel and have them participate in conference and post season, so I think that number is pretty nice. I do think it makes it hard when you get much larger than that and from a depth-perception, if you get lower than that it makes things a little tricky, like pitchers in the outfield. So, we want to avoid that. I think where we are at, I feel really good. You don't wanna have too much because you can't keep everybody happy.

### **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCES YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE PAC-12 VS. THE SEC?**

I think the biggest thing hasn't been on the softball field, I mean softball is softball. I think the biggest thing has been the support, obviously going to my first midnight yell, Jeff took me to the Cadets and that whole experience, the pageantry behind gameday, I think has been tremendous. We went to our first SEC head coaches meeting this week and seeing the video room and all the investment this conference makes in our sport is just tremendous. You really don't understand it until you see it, live it, and breathe it. So, I think that is the biggest thing. Competing is competing and softball is softball, so we will kind of keep those pieces the same. Where we value softball at this institution speaks highly to me

### **CAN YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR COACHING STAFF THAT YOU ASSEMBLED?**

Absolutely, so Russ Heffley, he's our volunteer and was with me at ASU, and he is kind of the jack of all trades. He will help from an outfield standpoint from catching and assisting Coach Harger in hitting. Coach Harger is my hitting coach. He was with me at Fresno, ASU, and now here. We have had top five offensive programs every year that he was with me. So, I kind of make him go wherever I go, so we're a package deal. We have Joe Guthrie, who was the head coach at UAB, and he is our Defensive Specialist. He will deal primarily with our defense and our base running. I think it speaks volumes to have someone who has been a head coach before. He kind of understands the nuances of being a head coach and being able to run a program. So, I have kind of taken some things off his plate and now he gets to deal with just defense. That's our on the field staff. We have Hunter Veach, who is our Director of Player Development, so he will deal with all of our analytical sides and help put practices together. We have Jae Fadde, who is our Director of Program Development, so he will do a lot of our videos and assist in those types of things. I'm pretty excited, we have a wide range of expertise. I feel like that's what my job is, right? I'm getting people in here to kind of fill the buckets that I'm not as good at.

### **DID YOU CHANGE YOUR STYLE NOW THAT YOU ARE HERE?**

I am who I am, and that's kind of my DNA. We are going to play tough; we are going to play gritty, we are going to fight and punch, and we are going to bang the ball. That is something that is a part of our philosophy. So, when we get in the box, we want to do damage. We don't go in there to touch a ball, we look to hit line drives over the wall. So, we'll say, "to the wall, over the wall." We don't want to touch the ball and we are going to keep that up.

### **WHO ARE SOME NAMES FROM THE TRANSFER PORTAL THAT AGGIE FANS ARE GOING TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH IN A HURRY?**

So, I've mentioned a couple of them like, Julia Cottrell will be one and because of transfer rules, she will be able to play in the Spring. Bri Evans is another one that will play, but we are going to figure out if she is going to play infield or outfield because we have a lot of versatility with her. Emily Leavitt and Madison Preston will be two arms. One will be a leftie, downballer and Leavitt is more of an up, rightie. We have Allie Enright, an outfielder that transferred from UA, and she will provide us some depth out there. We have two freshmen that followed me from ASU, Riley Valentine and Gracyn Coleman. They are both very versatile, which is why I recruited them at ASU, and they can play some corner positions. I think you are going to get acquainted with quite a few of them if I'm being honest with you. Overall, we have a lot of depth and a lot of ability to adapt and adjust.

### **WHAT IS IT ABOUT DAVIS DIAMOND AND COLLEGE STATION THAT YOU REALLY APPRECIATE?**

Where do I begin, I think just the feel of College Station is the thing that attracts me the most. This is a very special and unique place that makes you feel like you are a part of something with all of the traditions. Someone has to pinch me every day that I get to sit up in my office and look over this field. You know, I went to SEC meetings, and everyone was like "Oh, Texas A&M, best facility in the country." Like, it's just a fact and I think you have all of the support here, obviously a beautiful diamond, plus the ability to interact with donors and the community. I think that the best part, honestly, is just the people. ■



# 2022 FOOTBALL REWIND

GAME 3



## TEXAS A&M 17 - MIAMI 9

The Aggies bounced back during game three in front of the third-largest crowd to ever attend Kyle Field. 107,245 fans packed the stadium and the Aggies did not disappoint. The Ags had fallen 18 spots in the AP Poll from No. 6 to No. 24 before they faced the No. 13 team in the country, the Miami Hurricanes. As the former head coach of Florida State, Jimbo had dominated the Canes in the heated rivalry. Jimbo decided to make a change of quarterback in week three by giving LSU transfer, Max Johnson, his first opportunity to start. After trading field goals in the first quarter, the Aggies got their first big break of the game when the Miami punt returner fumbled, giving the Aggies the ball at the Cane 28-yard line. The Aggies took just three plays to score as true freshman, LJ Johnson Jr., dove across the goal line from the one-yard line to give themselves a 10-3 lead. In the third quarter, Max led the Aggies on one of their best drives of the season, going on a 76-yard drive that culminated in another Aggie touchdown by Johnson finding Achane out of the backfield. Devon weaved through the Cane defense finding pay-dirt on a 26-yard catch and run. The Aggie defense kept Miami out of the end zone and only allowed three field goals. Albert Regis made a huge play on special teams when he blocked a Miami field goal attempt. Although the Canes possessed the ball ten minutes longer than the Aggies did, the defense bend but don't break philosophy worked and the Aggies got a huge victory over a top 15 team.



# GAME 4



## TEXAS A&M 23 - ARKANSAS 21

Texas A&M has dominated the series between the Aggies and the Razorbacks over the last ten seasons, winning nine out of ten games. Jimbo and the team knew they had their hands full as they traveled up to Arlington to take on the No. 10 Hogs in Jerry World. Arkansas wasted no time by jumping on the Aggies 14-0 in the first quarter. Devon Achane finally got the Ags going when he broke loose for a 63-yard rush that woke up the Aggie offense and changed the game's momentum. Max Johnson finished the drive when he found true freshman Evan Stewart in the end zone for his first career touchdown. The Hogs responded by driving the length of the field and were poised to go up 21-7 when K.J. Jefferson leaped over the middle from the two-yard line, but Chris Russell Jr punched the ball into the open hands of Tyreek Chappell who turned around and headed the other way. He appeared to be stopped when Dernari Richardson came up to take the ball away, sprinting up the sideline for an 82-yard score. This play changed the whole game as the Aggies came out in the second half and took the lead for good when Achane scored on a 9-yard run. Randy Bond would add a field goal giving the Aggies 23 points. The Razorbacks would not go away and took the ball the length of the field again to draw within two. With time ticking away the Hogs had one last chance and ate up the clock as they positioned their way for a game-winning field goal. With less than 2 minutes left, they lined up for a 42-yard field goal. The ball flew through the air and hit the top of the right upright and bounced back into the field of play, no good. The Aggies rushed the field in celebration and kneeled to end the game, giving the Aggies another outstanding win.





## GAME 5



### MISSISSIPPI STATE 42 - TEXAS A&M 24

The Aggies rolled into Starkville with some momentum after an exciting win against Arkansas. In the first quarter of the game, both teams struggled to move the ball but the Aggies looked to go on top in the second as they gained possession on the State half of the field. Unfortunately, the ever-reliable Devon Achane fumbled the ball on the six-yard line trying to score and the Bulldogs drove the ball down the field and scored the first touchdown of the day. After the Ags went three and out, Mississippi State had another drive for 70 yards and extended the lead to 14-0. The Aggies tried to respond but Max Johnson was sacked and fumbled right before the half. The Aggies finally got on the board in the second half, driving down the field to the eight-yard line, having to settle for a 24-yard field goal by Randy Bond. Things were looking up when the Aggies forced Mississippi to fumble on their next possession when Deuce Harmon hit Caleb Ducking after a short pass reception and Walter Nolen scooped it up. State's defense forced the Aggies to kick a 44-yard field goal which was blocked and the Dogs ran it back for a 50-yard score, making it 21-3. The Aggies fought back and Max Johnson found Moose Muhammad III for an 18-yard touchdown. The Dogs would answer again with a touchdown of their own extending the lead to 28-10. In the fourth quarter, Max Johnson suffered a broken thumb while making a pass, forcing Haynes King to take over as quarterback. Both teams would score a touchdown in the fourth and the Aggies fell 42-24.



# GAME 6



## ALABAMA 24 - TEXAS A&M 20

The game against Alabama had been circled on everyone's calendar after the Nick Saban and Jimbo Fisher ordeal that took place in the summer. Jimbo had defended his program against allegations from Saban that we had "bought our entire team". The Aggies were going to Tuscaloosa after an epic win over the Tide last season. Experts were predicting that Alabama would roll over the Aggies, but the team played one of its best games of the year. The teams traded punts back and forth in the opening stanza before Bama put together a 71-yard drive and scored the first touchdown of the game. With nine minutes left in the half, Haynes King led the Aggies on a drive of their own and tied up the game with a short pass to Moose Muhammad III. The Tide got back on top with a 35-yard touchdown pass from Milroe to Burton, having only five minutes left to play in the half. On the next Bama possession, Alabama quarterback, Jalen Milroe coughed up the ball and Jaylon Jones recovered to set up the Aggies at the 49-yard line. On the next play, Haynes King found Evan Stewart for a 43-yard gain to the Bama six. Three plays later the Aggies tied up the game when King found Donovan Green for a three-yard touchdown. Alabama would kick a 50-yard field goal to take a 17-14 lead at the half. The Tide added another touchdown in the third quarter and the Aggies kicked two field goals in the second half to give them a chance for a comeback win. With 1:50 left in the game, Haynes King drove the team the length of the field to the Bama two-yard line. With just three seconds left in the game, Haynes took the final snap and threw a timing pattern pass to Evan Stewart that sailed to the pylon incomplete. The Aggies had fought hard but came up just short of what they needed to beat Alabama.





## GAME 7

### SOUTH CAROLINA 30 - TEXAS A&M 24



After a heartbreaking loss to Alabama, the Aggies traveled to Columbia, South Carolina for Game #7. A rowdy crowd at Williams-Brice Stadium went ballistic when Mitch Jeter took the opening kickoff for 100 yards to give the Gamecocks a 7-0 lead just five plays later, Haynes King threw an interception to Darius Rush, who returned it for 59 yards to the Aggie five-yard line. Fortunately, our defense was able to hold them to only a field goal, giving them a 10-0 lead. But things got worse on the next series as the Aggies fumbled and Tonka Hemingway returned it 17 yards to the Ags 19-yard line. Four plays later, the Cocks would score and lead 17-0 just five minutes into the game. The Aggies would battle back and get two field goals from Randy Bond before Haynes King found Max Wright for a nine-yard touchdown that brought us back within three and it looked like we had gotten things back under control. In the second half, South Carolina took advantage of a short punt and started at midfield. They extended the lead to ten on an 18-yard scoring run by MarShawn Lloyd. With less than 2 minutes left in the third, Fadil Diggs sacked Spencer Rattler and forced a fumble that Bryce Anderson recovered at the Carolina 24. Three plays later Devon Achane ran up the middle for a 15-yard touchdown changing the score to 24-21. In the Aggies next series Haynes King was injured, and true freshman Conner Weigman took the field. The Aggies were unable to get a first down and needed the defense to come up with a stop. South Carolina went on a five-minute drive going 80 yards and scoring their last touchdown with three minutes to play. Weigman guided the team down the field and with time running out, the Aggies kicked a field goal to draw within six. They recovered an onside kick with nine seconds to play but the final two passes fell incomplete to end the game.



# GAME 8



## OLE MISS 31 - TEXAS A&M 28

After four straight games on the road, the Aggies finally came home to play the #15 Ole Miss Rebels. True freshman Conner Weigman had his first career start and threw for 338 yards on 28 for 44 passing in the game, including four touchdowns. Over 101,000 people attended the game hoping to help the Aggies get back into the groove of winning. The Rebels took the opening kickoff and drove down the field, scoring the first touchdown of the game in just three minutes. The Aggies answered back as Weigman found Max Wright for a 31-yard gain, then on 4th and one on the Rebel three, Conner hit Moose Muhammad III for a touchdown. The Ags would then take the lead on an incredible one-handed catch by Evan Stewart to give the Aggies a 14-7 lead. The Rebels would add a field goal and Texas A&M led 14-10 at the half. Ole Miss added two more touchdowns in the third quarter before the Aggies finally responded with a 75-yard drive and a two-yard touchdown catch by Noah Thomas to draw back to within three. The Rebels gut-punched the Aggies on the next play when Quinshon Judkins went up the middle for 61 yards, following that with another score just three plays later. The Aggies would not back down and put together an 80-yard drive including a seven-yard catch and run touchdown by Devon Achane that would make the score 31-28. The defense buckled up and forced a three-and-out to give the Aggies one last chance from the eight-yard line. But it wasn't meant to be as Weigman's fourth and three pass slipped through the hands of Blake Smith on the final play.





## GAME 9



### FLORIDA 41 - TEXAS A&M 24

Game nine of the season will be remembered as the flu game as half the team suffered from the illness including quarterback Conner Weigman. It will also be remembered for the gutty effort put up by a banged-up Haynes King, who took the field with a turf toe injury along with a shoulder injury that knocked him out of the South Carolina game. Weigman got sick on Tuesday night before the game and was not able to practice the rest of the week. King stood up and told Fisher he could go and be an asset for the team. Devon Achane was recovering as well and he later testified that he was about 80% during the game. You couldn't tell by watching as Achane took the ball on the Aggies first play and raced up the field for a 65-yard gain. Just three plays later he put the Aggies on top with a five-yard touchdown run to make the score 7-3. The Gators would respond with a touchdown before Achane scored again with a five-yard catch giving the team a 14-10 lead. Florida would add a touchdown and a field goal before Devon could get his third touchdown. The 74-yard scoring drive included a 29-yard amazing catch by Evan Stewart who set up the Ags on the three-yard line. Texas A&M was in the lead with 24-20 on the scoreboard at the break. The Aggies were then forced to punt on every possession in the third quarter while the Gators added two touchdowns. In the fourth quarter, the Florida defense forced two fumbles and scored another touchdown to leave Kyle Field with a 41-24 win.



# GAME 10



## AUBURN 13 - TEXAS A&M 10

The Aggies went back on the road in game ten to take on the Auburn Tigers. The Tigers had a sold-out stadium and an interim coach, while the Aggies arrived in town with Conner Weigman and a slew of injured players including Devon Achane. To make matters worse Moose Muhammad III sat on the bench after breaking a team rule leaving the wide receiving corps without one of its best players. The defense played their hearts out and kept the game close. Antonio Johnson led the charge with a team-high ten tackles. With Achane out, Jimbo turned to Aman Daniels and Le'Veon Moss to lead the Aggie running game. Daniels averaged 7.5 yards a carry and gained 84 yards on 11 carries. Eight different players caught passes including Devin Price who had a very nice stretched-out catch during the game. Auburn scored the only touchdown in the first half on a 62-yard drive that included a 39-yard run by Tank Bigsby. Robby Ashford found Ja'Varrius Johnson for a 16-yard touchdown reception that gave the Tigers a 7-0 lead at the half. They added another field goal on their first possession of the second half to extend the score to 10-0. In the fourth quarter, the defense made a big play when Edgerrin Cooper collected a tipped ball for an interception, giving the Aggies the ball at the Auburn 39. They would have to settle for a 48-yard Randy Bond field goal. The Tigers would force another fumble on a Weigman sack that led to a field goal and a 13-3 lead. With less than three minutes to play, the Aggies finally put together an 80-yard scoring drive. Weigman found Jalen Preston in the end zone for a 17-yard touchdown with 1:33 to play. The Aggies were unable to recover the onside kick and the Tigers ate up the clock to win 13-10.





## GAME 11



### TEXAS A&M 20 - UMASS 3

On a cold and rainy day in College Station, the Aggies finally got back in the win column with a victory over UMASS. With a steady rain falling the entire game the Aggies went with their running game and some young talent to pick up the win. Devon Achane missed his second game in a row so the Aggies used Amari Daniels and Le'Veon Moss to rush for 152 yards. Conner Weigman showed that he could run as well by scrambling for 86 yards during the contest. The Aggies opened the scoring on their first drive, moving the ball to the Minute Men's ten-yard line before settling for a 27-yard Randy Bond field goal. The drive included a nice run and catch for 28 yards by tight end Donovan Green. UMASS would tie the game up at three when the Aggie defense forced a field goal try after they drove the ball to the A&M five-yard line. The Aggies would increase their score to ten when Weigman found Noah Thomas, who broke through tackles to score a touchdown on a 22-yard pass completion. After a pair of fumbles, the Aggies tried to add to their lead right before the half, but the 47-yard field goal was no good. The Aggies added a field goal on their first possession of the second half but had to punt with their only other possession in the third quarter. The Aggie defense allowed 168 yards in offense by the Minute Men in the game. The Aggies missed a 45-yard field in the fourth quarter before finally adding one more touchdown with 5:10 left to finish the game. The Aggies lined up in I-formation and Le'Veon Moss carried the ball four times on the scoring drive, which covered a total of 64 yards. Moss went up the middle for a 12-yard touchdown to seal the win.

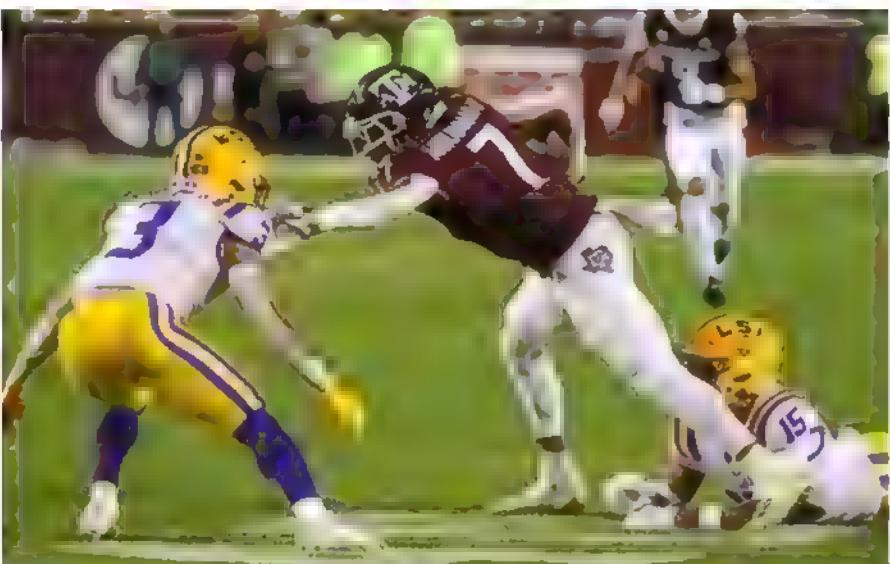


## TEXAS A&M 38 - LSU 23

Before the United States Hockey team took the ice against the Soviet Union in Lake Placid, New York for the 1980 Olympic Games, coach Herb Brooks told his team "Great moments are born from great opportunities." On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Aggies had a great opportunity Their arch-rival from Baton Rouge came into the game as the #5 team in the CFP and they had already secured the SEC West Division title and a birth in the upcoming SEC Championship. They were two wins away from securing a spot in the final four teams and a chance to play for the National Championshp. The 4-7 Aggies hadn't played a complete game all year. They had gone through three different starting quarterbacks and a slew of injuries and suspended players that left them as a shadow of the team they expected to have at the beginning of the year. Based on the eleven previous games, very few people expected them to win as the red-hot Tigers rolled into Aggieland. In front of a full-capacity crowd, the Aggies took the field ready to shock the nation. The defense got us off to a great start by forcing the Tigers to punt their first possession. The offense took the field and Conner Weigman led them on a 15-play drive that covered 90 yards and culminated in a ten-yard touchdown run by Devon Achane. LSU would answer with a long drive of their own that finished with a four-yard touchdown run by John Emery Jr. The teams would trade field goals in the second quarter before the Aggies went back on top with a 72-yard drive of their own. On third and goal from the three, Weigman found a wide-open Donovan Green in the end zone. The two connected for a touchdown and a seven-point lead at the half. In the third quarter, the Aggie offense went three and out with the Tigers making things even from a 71-yard scoring drive. When the Aggies didn't answer on their next possession, the momentum of the game seemed to move to the Tigers. But on a third and one, LSU quarterback Jayden Daniels scrambled to the left and was strip sacked by Edgerrin Cooper. Senior, Demani Richardson saw the ball on the ground, scooped it up, running it 27 yards for an Aggie touchdown and a 24-17 lead. It was the play of the game and the Aggies would not look back as they added two more touchdowns in the fourth quarter. An amazing 21-yard one-handed catch by Moose Muhammad III and a ten-yard scoring run by Devon Achane put the Aggies at 38 points. The Tigers would add one more score before time ran out and the Aggies triumphed 38-23. As the clock ran down, the 12th Man rushed the field and celebrated the big win. It wasn't a miracle like the Americans had over the Soviets in 1980, but for Aggies everywhere it was a great win that we can celebrate until the 2023 season begins. The Aggies showed great heart and finally put together four quarters of football. This team is very young but the difficult times we went through this year and the experience we gained will be so beneficial as we head into next season.



## GAME 12





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## Rec Sports

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

### MEN'S LACROSSE

BY ROB HAVENS '88

The Texas A&M Men's Lacrosse club was formed in 1972 by a professor named "Doc" Hall and a graduate student named Dave Gruber. It was the first-ever college lacrosse team in the state of Texas. On a personal level, it's one of my favorites because my son Tyler, who had never played the sport before, joined the team when he was a freshman.

Most members have a previous experience, like the current president Scott France, who helped us with this story. France told us that he's played the sport his entire life and joined the club so he could keep playing the sport he grew up with. The club has 50 to 60 members that they split into two teams: a D1 team and a D2 team. They compete in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA) against non-varsity lacrosse programs from colleges across the nation.

This past season, eight Aggie Lacrosse players earned conference awards as the team advanced to play in the Lone Star Conference Finals.

We asked France what makes a good lacrosse player and he said, "Being a

great all-around athlete definitely benefits when it comes to becoming a great lacrosse player, but I would say being able to adapt to different scenarios and being heavily coachable are the two biggest factors. Lacrosse isn't all about being the biggest, strongest, and fastest player on the field. I have had the privilege to play with and against some great players as well as watch some great players and none of them play the exact same way. They have all mastered their own style of the game and now are able to adapt to how the system is run around them and the team they are competing against. So basically, what makes a great player isn't just one's athleticism but also being able to understand and adapt to certain scenarios on the fly."

The team practices four days a week year-round and games are typically played Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. France told us his favorite memories so far were beating LSU in overtime his sophomore year and beating TCU in double overtime his junior year.

Not only has competing with his teammates on the field been rewarding, but as president, France has gained invaluable experience. "A lot of effort goes into running the club," France explained, "from scheduling games and practices, meetings with Sport Clubs administration, and making sure members get all the information they need. It has been an amazing opportunity so far to take this leadership role that I know will translate to my career when I graduate in May."



### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Texas A&M Sport Clubs has assembled some of the best talent in the nation to compete for the school we hold so dearly. Athletes that could have competed at other institutions at the varsity level sometimes decide to come to their dream school and compete at the club level.

One example of that is Women's Volleyball Club President Allie Goff. She told us, "When it came time during my senior year to either sign to a college and continue playing or do what was best for my career goals, I really struggled with the idea of giving up volleyball. When I discovered that TAMU had a really good club team, it felt like all of my problems were solved. I could go to the school of my dreams and continue playing the sport I loved; it was a win-win. I think it is a great way for women to continue their passions while also growing into real adults with real career goals instead of sacrificing one or the other."

The Volleyball Club started in 1984 and

has been a highly competitive program since its beginning. The current squad has 22 players equally divided among two teams. Approximately 80 women try out each year for one of the coveted spots on the team. According to Goff, young ladies who have competed at the NCAA level come out every year to try and make the team.

The team won nationals in 2020 and according to Goff, "This year's team is easily the most talented team I have ever been on, and I think we are a huge force to be reckoned with." The team competes in tournaments in the fall to prepare for nationals in the spring.

We asked Goff about her favorite experience since joining the team and she told us, "Last nationals tournament was one of the most fun experiences of my life. What is nice about our club is that everyone is just as obsessed with the sport as I am, so being on a trip where all there is to do is play and watch volleyball

is just such a blast. Anytime we weren't playing, we were at the conference center watching all the other teams, especially the men's teams because there is just so much talent in one room. We also all did fun things to our hair, like putting tinsel and colorful beads in, and it felt like we were little girls just running around with our best friends and having the times of our lives. While we didn't end up on top last April, I am very excited to return this year with our team and reclaim our national title."





# THE 12TH MAN



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